

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /073 W
-----300105Z 048147 /73

R 291030Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3018
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3158

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, RO
SUBJ: ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS: BAPTISTS
REF: A. STATE 94008 (NOTAL); B. BUCHAREST 2803; C. MUNICH 1242

1. SUMMARY. REF A NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT
PRESENT STATUS OF BAPTIST DISSIDENTS. SITUATION DOES NOT
APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT REPORTED IN
BUCHAREST 2803, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS
THAT THOSE ARRESTED WERE BEATEN. FURTHER BACKGROUND ON RECENT
DISSIDENT BAPTIST ACTIVITY WAS SENT TO DEPARTMENT IN BUCHAREST
A-24 OF MARCH 3, 1977 AND A-29 OF MARCH 17, 1977. END SUMMARY

2. NUMEROUS SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED ARREST, INTER-
ROGATION AND DETENTION OF BAPTIST DISSIDENT LEADER
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IOSIF TON AND FIVE OTHER CO-SIGNERS OF DOCUMENT "THE
NEO-PROTESTANT RELIGIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA"
(BUCHAREST A-24, MARCH 3, 1977) IN EARLY DAYS OF APRIL.
WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL REPORTS THAT ALL THOSE ARRESTED
WERE BEATEN WITH TON AND NICOLESCU RECEIVING MOST
ATTENTION IN THIS REGARD. WE BELIEVE TON'S MEETING
WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR COMAN (BUCHAREST 2803) TOOK

PLACE ON APRIL 14.

3. PRIOR TO THAT DATE, ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNCERTAIN PRECISELY WHEN, ALL WERE RELEASED FROM DETENTION AND ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME, BUT WERE REQUIRED TO REPORT DAILY TO THEIR LOCAL SECURITATE OFFICE. ALLEGEDLY BOTH TON AND NICOLESCU WERE ALSO SOMETIMES BEATEN DURING THESE DAILY SESSIONS. THEY CONTINUE TO REPORT DAILY, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN MISTREATED SINCE APRIL 20, ACCORDING TO A REPORT GIVEN TO US BY A WOMAN WHO HAD SPOKEN ON THE TELEPHONE WITH NICOLESCU AT HOME APRIL 27. REPORTEDLY NONE OF THE GROUP HAS RETRACTED ANY OF THEIR BELIEFS OR STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT.

4. WIFE OF PENTACOSTAL PASTOR VASILE RASCOL TOLD US TODAY THAT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT BAPTISTS WOULD BE PUT ON TRIAL. HOWEVER, SHE DID SAY THAT THEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FIND WORK.

5. COMMENT: WITH HIS PASTOR'S LICENSE HAVING BEEN WITHDRAWN BY DEPARTMENT OF CULTS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TON AND NICOLESCU (WHO LOST HIS LICENSE SOME TIME AGO) MIGHT BE CHARGED WITH HAVING NO GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT UNDER ROMANIAN LAW NO. 25, AS HAVE SEVERAL PERSONS WHO HAVE SIGNED GOMA'S MANIFESTO (BUCHAREST 2614). IF SO, THEY COULD BE FORCED TO WORK FOR ONE YEAR AT ANY ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE CHOSEN BY THE COURT.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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